

4/5/04
sm

Housing Authority - County of Los Angeles

April 2, 2004

To: Each Supervisor

From: Carlos Jackson, Executive Director

SUBJECT: HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PORTABILITY

In recent weeks, several newspaper articles have reported the cancellation of Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) administered by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA). This included the cancellation of contracts with landlords to whom they had committed rent subsidy payments.

At this time, we are billing HACLA for approximately 820 families with Housing Choice Section 8 Vouchers ("ports") and have been in constant contact with their staff to ensure that the payments will continue. Our priority is to issue timely billings to the City to reduce the impact on our budget. We are working closely with HACLA to reconcile the status of families and to resolve any and all discrepancies.

Several discussions have been held with HUD staff in both Los Angeles and Washington. It is our understanding that they are meeting with City staff regularly and monitoring what they perceive as a regional matter. We have confirmed the existence of a HUD letter prohibiting HACLA from canceling vouchers that are currently contracted as portable vouchers in other jurisdictions.

In addition, we recognized that there was some public confusion, which resulted from early newspaper articles that did not clearly distinguish between the City's housing authority and the County's. Therefore, I sent the attached letter to our landlords to reassure them of the financial stability of our Section 8 program.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Rebecca Craigo, Director of the Section 8 program, at (562) 347-4663, extension 8611.

CJ:sm
Attachment

c: Each Deputy



Carlos Jackson
Executive Director

**HOUSING AUTHORITY
of the County of Los Angeles**

Administrative Office
2 Coral Circle • Monterey Park, CA 91755
www.hacola.org

Gloria Molina
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Zev Yaroslavsky
Don Knabe
Michael D. Antonovich
Commissioners

ASSISTED HOUSING DIVISION

12131 Telegraph Road • Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
Tel: 562.347.4663 • TDD: 562.906.4928



March 18, 2004

Dear Participating Landlord:

In the past several weeks, you may have read some articles in the Los Angeles Times regarding the suspension or recall of Section 8 rental vouchers by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles.

This is a very unfortunate situation affecting all of us. I want to reassure you that the County of Los Angeles Housing Choice Voucher Program administered by my agency is fiscally sound. We pay an average of \$12 million per month in rent subsidies to approximately 10,000 Section 8 landlords and continue to honor the vouchers issued by my agency. In fact, never in the history of the County Housing Authority have we recalled any vouchers due to a lack of funding. I hope that the recent publicity will not discourage you from continuing to participate as a landlord under our program.

The success of our program is contingent upon your continual participation as a landlord, making your rental properties available to our clients. We value our partnership and look forward to continuing our mutually beneficial relationship.

Sincerely,

CARLOS JACKSON
Executive Director

CJ:MQH:sm

